

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, and the final rejection of claims 1-15 are respectfully requested. Applicants have attempted to address every objection and ground for rejection in the Office Action dated July 22, 2005 (Paper No. 072005). The claims have been amended to more clearly describe the present invention, or have placed the application in better form for appeal.

As a preliminary matter, the Examiner objects to claims 7 and 14 for having improper antecedent basis. Accordingly, Applicants have amended claim 14 to depend from claim 13. Further, claim 7 now has proper antecedent base from amended claim 1.

Claims 1-4, 8-11 and 15 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by US 5,982,884 to Hoffmann. Further, claims 5-7 and 12-14 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoffman. These rejections of the claims will be addressed together.

Hoffmann discloses a cell phone charging stand having a holding base 7 and a supporting base 5 which are connected through a pivot support 29. The holding base 7 holds the cell phone 3, and the supporting base 5 pivots about the holding base to support the cell phone in a generally vertical orientation. The sockets/connectors 18 for receiving electrical cords, are located on the supporting base 5. Power is supplied to the holding base 7 (where the cell phone 3 is housed) through a flexfoil 43 in the hinge 29/31 that connects the holding base 7 to the supporting base 5 (where the power socket 18 is located). The holding base 7 and the supporting base 5 are only physically connected to each other at the hinge 29/31.

In contrast, amended claim 1 recites, among other things, the feature of a latch which releasably secures the base and the cover together. While the Examiner asserts it would have been obvious to provide the holding base 7 and the supporting base 5 of Hoffmann with a latch to secure the cover and base together, Applicants assert that there is no disclosure or suggestion for this. In fact, the background of the reference teaches away from providing a latch where Hoffmann discloses the importance of quickly accessing the cell phone. Providing a latch to the telephone case would impede the ability to quickly access the cell phone.

With respect to amended claim 5, among other things, the charging stand features a groove in the base for receiving an edge of the cover in the open position. While the Examiner asserts that this feature is obvious in view of Hoffmann, Applicants submit that there is no motivation or suggestion to incorporate the groove of the present charging stand into the holding base 7 of Hoffmann. Since the geometry of the holding base 7 and the supporting base 5 is such that the desired orientation of the cell phone is achieved without a groove in the back of the holding base, there is no motivation to incorporate a groove in the holding base. Thus, Applicants submit that there is no suggestion to incorporate a groove, and claim 5 is not obvious in view of the reference.

Further, claims 1, 5 and 15 include the feature of the base having at least one socket for supplying power from the external power source to the contacts, which in turn, form a connection for supplying power to the clipper/appliance. The Hoffmann reference does not disclose this feature. The base 14 of the charging stand holds the

appliance 12, and the cover 26 pivots to support the base. Thus, the counterpart of the base 14 of the present invention is the holding base 7 of Hoffmann, and the counterpart of the cover 26 of the present invention is the supporting base 5 of Hoffmann.

The at least one socket 74, 76 of the present charging stand is located on the base 14 to receive a power cord. In contrast, in the Hoffmann reference, the socket 18 for receiving electrical cords is located on the supporting base 5. Thus, using the terminology of the present application, the socket of Hoffmann is located on the cover, not the base, as required by claim 1.

Since the power cord connects to the cover, Hoffmann requires an electrical connection to run between the cover and the base in the hinge to provide power to the cell phone. In contrast, in the charging stand of claims 1, 5 and 15, the base has electrical contacts for charging the battery and at least one socket for supplying power from the power source to the contacts. Thus, the power cord connects directly to the base which holds the appliance, obviating the need for the connector through the hinge. In view of the lack of disclosure of a socket in the base, as recited in claims 1, 5 and 15, the rejection of these claims is respectfully traversed.

Further, amended claim 8 recites, among other things, the feature of a base having a defined pocket configured for enclosing a lower portion of the appliance. Applicants submit that this pocket configuration is not disclosed or rendered obvious by the Hoffmann reference. Hoffmann does not disclose a base having a defined pocket configured for enclosing a lower portion of the appliance. Hoffmann merely discloses

locating lugs 37 and 39 disposed at two upper locations and one lower location to stably support the cell phone in the holding base 7. The configuration of the Hoffman lugs 37, 39 is suited for an appliance, such as a cell phone, where the entire face of the appliance is preferably exposed. The defined pocket of amended claim 8 is not suggested by the reference because the pocket would block a portion of the face of the phone. Thus, the configuration of the lugs 37 of Hoffmann do not disclose or suggest the defined pocket configuration of the present charging stand, and the rejection of claim 8 is traversed.

Applicants submit that in view of the above-identified amendments and remarks, the claims in their present form are patentably distinct over the art of record or are in better form for appeal. Allowance of the rejected claims is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner discover there are remaining issues which may be resolved by a telephone interview, he is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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